

King of the Belgians

A Royal Septuagenarian Whose Reputation Does Not Improve With Age



AMONG all the crowned heads of Christendom the aged king of the Belgians is unique. Leopold II, who has exceeded by two years the scriptural age limit of threescore years and ten, has not yet finished sowing his wild oats. It is not because he did not begin the operation soon. There is no record to show that he was ever compelled to struggle against an inherited predisposition toward goodness. Nor has it been for lack of application. There is no evidence that he has been slothful as a sower.

With abundant and long continued opportunities to arrive at absolute surfeit he has embraced none of them, but has continued to exhibit a pertinacity and an endurance that would have made a hero of him had they been exercised in a less unconventional manner.

For Leopold has "gone the pace" with astonishing recklessness, even for a king. At an age when other kings and even those who have not worn the purple have learned to appreciate the value of character, or at least the appearance of it, Leopold has been busy with the advance of years, the Belgian monarch seems not yet to have realized the need of it. With an amazing indifference to the opinions of mankind in general and to the demands of civilized society in particular, he has kept right on in his career of social misdoing, held in check, it would seem, by none of the motives that influence most heads of modern governments.

Gloating as they have been, Leopold's moral shortcomings alone might not have condemned him in the eyes of an age which does not expect conspicuous virtue in those who sit in the seats of the mighty. Other kings have been morally derelict and have escaped uni-

versal reprobation. It is true that some of the heroes of happy memory were decidedly lame morally, and the "gentle modifying years" have transformed their frailty into something that horrifies no longer.

So it is not the venerable rake's moral lapses alone that have made his name a byword and a reproach among all the nations. The one thing that makes the civilized world shudder when the name of Leopold II. is spoken is his conduct as sovereign and tyrant of the Congo.

He has been ruling Belgium for more than forty years, and the country has prospered greatly under his administration. He came to the throne about the time of the close of the American civil war. Since that time Germany, France and other countries on the European mainland have passed through various political changes, but Belgium has shown no disposition to try another form of government.

He is only the second king that Belgium has had as an independent state. Until 1830 it formed a part of the kingdom of the Netherlands. In that year it became an independent government, and the father of the present king.

Leopold I. was chosen by its congress as its constitutional sovereign. It was to the interest of Great Britain, France and some of the other powers to have a government not allied to the rising greatness of Germany in that part of the continent, and they agreed to maintain its neutrality. Within a short time all the states of Europe recognized it officially.

It is a miniature kingdom, but it is a veritable beehive of industry. It is scarcely larger in area than some Texas counties, about one-third the size of the state of Indiana. Its coast line on the German ocean is not longer than from Washington to Baltimore. Still it supports one-twelfth as large a population as the United States. There are more inhabitants in Belgium than in any state of the Union with the exception of New York.

The country is the garden of Europe. It is divided into small holdings, and the greater part of it is worked with the spade. So intensive is the cultivation of the soil that it produces vastly in excess of any other in Europe. The Belgian mines and factories are equally productive. As an example of the kingdom's industrial thrift may be mentioned the fact that it contains 1,500 stone quarries in active operation, employing about 37,000 men and yielding a revenue of over \$11,000,000. Belgian iron and coal go to all parts of the world. The story of its commercial activity is told by the fact that Belgium sells annually more than \$500 worth of its products for every family in the kingdom.

This is the country that Leopold rules, and it cannot be denied that its prosperity is due in large part to his successful business methods. He is so identified with the making of modern Belgium that it is impossible to separate him from it. From the beginning of his reign he has been alert commercially, and he has succeeded in inspiring the naturally slow going Flemings with a wonderful amount of industrial keenness.

Perhaps that is the reason that his people are so blind to the misdoings of their monarch. It is not because they are ignorant of the reality, for it has long been a matter of discussion throughout the little kingdom. Nor is it on account of any universal moral obligation on the part of the Belgians. Out of a population of 6,000,000 all but about 15,000 are more or less constant adherents of the church. It is evident, therefore, that Leopold's services to his own country have been so great

that they outweigh in the popular estimation the unsavory reputation that has become international.

It is admitted in Belgium that the king has always been gay and giddy and that he remains so. All sorts of stories are current in reference to his escapades and to his preference for the society of persons whose acquaintance must be far from edifying. At the age of eighteen he married the daughter of the Archduke Joseph of Austria, the pretty and amiable Marie Henriette, but domesticity did not tame him. Marriage did not curb his taste for the life irregular, and the nation seems to have accepted the situation as inevitable.

King Leopold has no son to succeed him. If he should die today the crown would fall to his nephew, Prince Albert, who is as conspicuous for his punctilious observance of the proprieties as his uncle is otherwise. The old king has three daughters, and it is one of the most distressing counts in the indictment against him that he has treated them badly. Stephanie, the eldest, was the wife of the Crown Prince Rudolf of Austria, who was the victim of the unfortunate affair at Mayerling. After her dissolute husband was shot the princess became the wife of Count Lonyay, a Hungarian nobleman. Her alliance with a man of inferior rank gave such offense to her father and to old Franz Josef that she was disowned practically by both of them. When she went to Brussels to see her dead mother the king had her ejected from the palace. Louise, his second daughter, was treated so shamefully by

her husband, Philip of Saxe-Coburg, that she was obliged to accept the protection of a Hungarian officer, Lieutenant Kegelvitich. Instead of coming to her rescue, her father had her immured in an insane asylum. Clementine, the youngest girl, was so outraged by her father's doings in the palace royal that she declared that she must leave it. She was then permitted to withdraw to a humble residence within a stone's throw of the palatial one of the old king's latest favorite.

The mother of these girls bequeathed to them the whole of her large estate. Leopold has managed to retain possession of this property as well as the great estate left to his sister, Carlotta, by her unfortunate husband, Maximilian of Mexico. Leopold was trustee for the ex-empress during her long residence in a sanatorium, and upon her recovery he declined to put her in possession of her estate.

With a civil list fourteen times as large as that of President Roosevelt, this modern Sardanapalus is master of a private fortune reputed to exceed that of any other potentate on earth. He owns mines and factories in Belgium, hotels at the fashionable seaside resorts of Ostend and is even the proprietor of several gambling houses at that place. For a long time he was sole possessor of the Belgian Congo, which under his system of extraction became a veritable Aladdin's lamp.

As the business now stands Leopold is the sovereign of the so-called Congo Free State, an office which is entirely distinct from his Belgian throne. At one time the revenues of the Congo State showed an alarming deficit, and Leopold made up his mind to reorganize matters. His scheme certainly had the merit of simplicity. He laid down the rule that the Belgian officials in the Congo, creatures of his own, must pay to him a certain revenue, and he let it be known that he did not intend to hold any man accountable for the means employed to raise it. Under this stimulation his officers succeeded in delivering to the king a revenue which is now estimated to amount to \$10,000,000 a year.

It is claimed by those who are trying to put a stop to the nefarious business that by their peculiar methods of raising this revenue these men have reduced the population of the Congo State from 25,000,000 to 15,000,000. The problem of the missing 10,000,000 natives is explained in this way: The Congo native's most important duty is to bring in rubber for King Leopold. For the first failure one hand is cut off. For the second the loss of the other hand is the penalty. For absolute refusal to yield this tribute death by slow torture is the alternative.

All this seems incredible, but enough of it has been corroborated by missionaries and foreign consuls to make a strong case against the aged reprobate who is responsible for the sickening business. Apropos of Mark Twain's public arraignment of the king of the Belgians which he has made as scathing and as comprehensive as his clever pen could construct, it safely may be presumed that when the great American humorist drops into seriousness matters must be very urgent indeed.

It is only fair to record that the king of the Belgians has found able apologists even on this side of the water. That sterling American citizen, Cardinal Gibbons, believes that the old monarch has been maligned and that he is not as he is represented to be. It must not be overlooked, also, that several American citizens of fair repute have been associated with Leopold in the Congo business and that they are ready to testify to his absolute squareness in a commercial sense.

GEORGE H. PICARD.

ended in failure. But Miss Andrews, being an American girl, refused to be daunted or stopped by red tape obstacles.

She secured the warm approval and support of Mr. Bernard Desouches, who is the head of the coal trust, and whose father was the director of the first telephone company in France. A "Societe Anonyme" or joint-stock company with a capital of 75,000 francs was formed under the title of "Les Petits Messagers," and to the amazement of everybody the persuasive and enterprising Desouches obtained not only the sanction of the ministry of posts and telegraphs, but an agreement from the state to lay the wires, the advantage of this arrangement being obvious, as in the event of anything going wrong it is the state which is responsible.

From the moment that the patronage of the state had been secured, there could be no collision with the postal and telegraph service or with the prefecture of police, and success was practically certain.

FIFTEEN DIVISIONS.

The city area will be divided into 15 radial divisions. The lines have been open for the last two months, and in eight months the whole system will be working. Three months would have sufficed for the laying down of the wires, but delay has been caused by the displacement of the sewers in order to make way for the Metropolitan railway.

The estimated cost of laying the wires, etc., for 15 offices, each with 500 subscribers, is \$150,000. The society has had the good fortune to secure the last available space alongside the sewers. This puts competition practically out of the question, for any future company would have to do special channelling (which the municipal authorities would in all probability refuse to sanction) and the necessary outlay would be at least \$1,000,000.

TEN YEARS' FRANCHISE.

The concession is for 10 years with the right of renewal. Should the system at any time decide to avail itself of the option of purchase, five years' notice must be given, the purchase price being fixed as follows: The state must refund the original cost of installation together with the net profits on the last five years, plus 10 per cent on the net profits for the five years immediately following. The state must refund for 50 years the contingency of state purchase being provided for in a special clause.

That the idea is "catching on" is evident. There are already 2,000 subscribers, among these being practically the entire American colony. Mrs. Livingston-Sampson (who was the Duchess de Dino), Grand Duke George of Leuchtenberg, Mme. Henry Say, Victorien Sardou, Grand Hotel, Rita, Continental, Bristol, Rumpelmayer, Domestique, Palladium, Redfern, Paquin, Virel, all the shipping lines in the Rue de la Paix, etc. Within two or three weeks 200 subscribers will have their boxes.

LONG DISTANCE ERRANDS.

Not content with applying the Anglo-American system to Paris, Miss Andrews has improved upon it by introducing two innovations. It occurred to her to add a cyclist call at the same price as the other call. By this means long distance errands are much more rapidly accomplished. Secondly, there will be a police service attached to the call boxes. A burglar, he will say, sets the ledger at "police" before leaving business. The burglar will inevitably come into contact with some wise constable with the ledger of the quarter and will be pounced upon by the police whilst he is unsuccessfully filling his pockets with diamonds and pearls.

The "Petits Messagers" are already an institution, and Parisians are beginning to look to them to help them out of a difficulty, just as the fireman is the recognized "handy man" when a child

has to be extricated from beneath a tram, or a madman taken down from the water tower to which he is clinging in mid-air.

The other day a society doctor in the Rue de Rivoli was suddenly deserted by his servant. He was his receptionist! In an agony of despair he rang up Miss Andrews and implored her to help him. In a few minutes all was arranged, and the visitors had no idea that the smart youth who waited on them that afternoon was a Petit Messenger. The delighted doctor wants that boy regular now.

IN GREAT DEMAND.

Another petit messenger was called upon to impersonate Santa Claus, and he played his role with brilliant success. At the recent automobile show the boys were in great demand. Now a word about Miss Andrews herself. Her family is well known in New York. Her grandfather, Mr. Loring Andrews, was the founder of the New York Chamber of Commerce, and her uncle, Mr. William Loring Andrews, is one of the trustees of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and a famous art critic. His library of examples of the bookbinder's art is one of the best in the United States. Miss Andrews' mother is a Hungarian and she herself is a polyglot, speaking English, French, German and Italian with equal fluency.

This energetic American girl is 26 years of age (not more nor less), and she enjoys a unique distinction of being the only woman who has ever been on a board of directors in France.

R. F. TATE.

CLEAR THE COMPLEXION.

One who has thoroughly cleansed the system and cleared the complexion of pimples and blotches, is the best laxative for women and children as it is mild and pleasant, and does not gripe or sicken. It is a French preparation, and is sold by all druggists. It is a French preparation, and is sold by all druggists. It is a French preparation, and is sold by all druggists.

THE REAL RAISULI.

"ROBIN HOOD" OF MOROCCO

(Continued from page seventeen.)

man drawn without making any effort to save her.

OBJECTS OF CURIOSITY.

Mrs. Campbell and her companion were, of course, objects of great curiosity to the Moors, especially their women folk, most of whom had never seen a European woman before. Mrs. Campbell has light-colored hair, which is regarded as a terrible affliction among the Moors, although they will tolerate red hair. At one place where the party stopped the daughter of a kaid paid the ladies a visit. "Allah be merciful!" she cried, when Mrs. Campbell slipped off her veil. "What a misfortune to have hair like that! You will never get married!" she advised Mrs. Campbell to lose no time in dyeing it. When told that Mrs. Campbell had married years before and had a daughter, the Moorish maiden refused to believe it. She was a terrible affliction among the Moors, although they will tolerate red hair. At one place where the party stopped the daughter of a kaid paid the ladies a visit. "Allah be merciful!" she cried, when Mrs. Campbell slipped off her veil. "What a misfortune to have hair like that! You will never get married!" she advised Mrs. Campbell to lose no time in dyeing it. When told that Mrs. Campbell had married years before and had a daughter, the Moorish maiden refused to believe it.

RUSSIAN REVOLUTIONIST PREACHES HIS DOCTRINE.

The "Father of the Russian Revolution" has been boldly preaching his religion in New York and emissaries will soon cover the country to spread the doctrine of revolt against autocracy and the establishment of a people's government for unhappy Russia. He is Nicholas Tokayevsky, and his propaganda is the liberation of his fellow men. He was a leader in the revolutionary movement of the seventies, when Czar Alexander II was assassinated, and, although of a well-to-do family, has devoted his life to the working classes. He was finally imprisoned and later exiled but has managed to make several trips to Russia, where he has done valiant service for the people.

from the city with medicines for her. "Everybody in Fez knew that we were coming, and everybody there knew also that I was ill," she said. "Yet it was impossible that by any ordinary method tidings of my condition could have reached them so far in advance of our arrival as to admit of relief reaching us 10 miles from the city."

DANGERS OF PNEUMONIA.

A cold at this time if neglected is liable to cause pneumonia which is so often fatal, and even when the patient has recovered the lungs are weakened, making them regularly susceptible to the development of consumption. Foley's Honey and Tar will stop the cough, heal and strengthen the lungs and prevent pneumonia. La Grippe coughs yield quickly to the wonderful curative qualities of Foley's Honey and Tar. There is nothing else "just as good." Sold by F. J. Hill Drug Co.

BLACKMAILER ROUTED BY ANGLO-AMERICAN BRIDE.

Special Correspondence.

LONDON, March 7.—Blackmailers are imitative creatures. When one of their kind appears on the scene others follow in his wake. The blackmailer is over on the war path in England though news of him, or her, rarely gets into print. Following on the heels of the Whiteley incident came another last week, without, however, tragic consequences or publicity.

The scene was enacted at a country house where a recent American

bride and her English husband were spending their honeymoon. A lady who would not give her name asked for the bride explaining she wished to see her on a matter of the utmost importance. After some preliminaries the individual whose white hair and simple black gown were suggestive of prosaic respectability was shown into the bride's boudoir. When there and greeted with the smiling room where which was a disguise and revealing herself as a former friend and rival, stated her case.

For reasons best known to herself was quaking with fear. There was a pitched battle of words and the intruder, who was saying unless he had \$2,500 down which she required then and there to pay her debts the girl's husband would be told of a certain little episode which took place at Newport on a summer night two years ago.

"You know perfectly well my money is tied up," said the bride.

"Well, you have jewels."

"But my husband would miss them."

"Well, if you won't be reasonable there is no help, but to expose the matter."

Suddenly an idea came into the mind of the distressed bride. She went to the telephone which communicated with the smoking room where she knew her husband was at that moment, and phoned a message to him to bring her check book. Her husband brought her husband's speaking to a servant and that she herself had achieved her object.

In less than two minutes there entered the room a burly, placid faced young man, carrying out his instructions.

"There is a lady here," said the bride, "who wants to tell you a tale about me, dear," whereupon the visitor remarked:

"You will think very differently."

"Look here," rejoined the man, "if you have come here to blackmail my wife you have taken the wrong turning. If you say another word I will telephone to the police station and have you arrested there."

"I have come to open your eyes."

He opened the door and pointing to the stairs said, "Your one chance is to get out."

And out she got.

Some people say the bride told "the incident" to her husband, others insist he would not listen to "it" and assured her if she ever referred to it they would have their first quarrel.

LADY MARY.

His Place Was Filled.

Prof. James H. Hyslop of the American Society for Psychical Research, said in a discussion of mediums:

"Genuine mediums being so plentiful, I can readily sympathize with those who ridicule false mediums. I heard of an amusing incident in this line the other day. A medium, after evoking Lincoln, Washington and other seasonable spirits, said in a thrilling voice:

"I see a man of middle age, with black hair parted in the middle, a black mustache, and a tip-topped nose. Handsome, distinguished, stately, he is hovering persistently about you, sir. And the medium nodded toward an elderly man with white whiskers.

"This elderly man started, and then burst suddenly into tears. His frame shaking with sobs, he cried:

"John, John, why, oh why did you leave me to the misery of these past years?"

"You knew him?" the medium asked gently.

"Answer him," moaned the elderly man, "communicated with him daily. Oh, John, he burst forth again, 'why, why did you leave me to the misery of these past years?'"

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Mrs. Cora B. Miller Makes a Fortune

Started a Few Years Ago With No Capital, and Now Employs Nearly One Hundred Clerks and Stenographers.

Until a few years ago Mrs. Cora B. Miller lived in a manner similar to that of thousands of other very poor women of the average small town and village. She now resides in her own palatial brown-stone residence, and is considered one of the most successful business women in the United States.

Mrs. Miller's New Residence, Earned in Less Than One Year.

Several years ago Mrs. Miller learned of a mild and simple preparation that cured herself and several friends of female weakness and piles. She was besieged by so many women needing treatment that she decided to furnish it to those who might call for it. She started with only a few dollars' capital, and the remedy, possessing true and wonderful powers, producing many cures when doctors and other remedies failed, the demand grew so rapidly she was several times compelled to seek larger quarters. She now occupies one of the city's largest office buildings, which she owns, and almost one hundred clerks and stenographers are required to assist in this great business.

Million Women Use It.

More than a million women have used Mrs. Miller's remedy, and no matter where you live, she can refer you to ladies in your own locality who can and will tell you sufferer that this marvelous remedy really cures women. Despite the fact that Mrs. Miller's business is very extensive, she is always willing to give aid and advice to every suffering woman who writes to her. She is a generous good woman and has decided to give away her medicine \$19,900 worth absolutely FREE.

Every woman suffering with pains in the head, back and bowels, bearing-down feelings, nervousness, creeping sensations up the spine, and especially, desire to cry, hot flashes, weariness, or piles from any cause, should sit right down and send her name and address to Mrs. Cora B. Miller, Box 950, Kokomo, Ind., and receive by mail (free of charge in plain wrapper) a 50-cent box of her marvelous medicine, also her valuable book, which every woman should have.

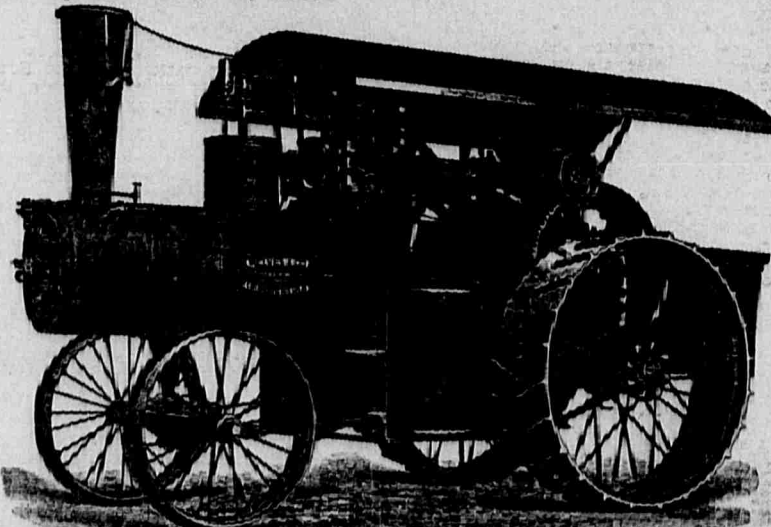
Remember, this offer will not last long, for thousands and thousands of women who are suffering will take advantage of this generous means of getting cured. So if you are ailing, do not suffer another day, but send your name and address to Mrs. Miller for the book and medicine before the \$19,900 worth is all gone.

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